

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A heald frame (2) for a weaving machine (M), said frame comprising two posts (4, 4') and two cross-members (6, 6'), each of which is equipped with a heald-carrying bar (8), while there are provided means for fixing at least one post relative to at least one corresponding cross-member, the fixing means comprising a protrusion (4₁) from the post (4), which protrusion (4₁) is suitable for being received at least partly in a recess (V) formed in the cross-member (6), and also means (18, 20) for the mutual retention of the post and the cross-member, wherein said fixing means further comprise an intermediate tubular fixing element (14) accommodated in an indentation (12) formed in the cross-member (6), the tubular element (14) defining an internal volume (V) which forms said recess for receiving at least part of said protrusion (4₁), while there are provided means for the mutual connection of the tubular fixing element (14) and the cross-member (6).

2. (original) The frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for connecting the fixing element (14) and the cross-member (6) are means for fixing by adhesive bonding.

3. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the tubular fixing element (14) is made of steel, especially stainless steel, or of a light metal alloy, especially aluminium.

4. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the indentation (12) opens at the two front faces (6₂) of the cross-member (6).

5. (original) The frame as claimed in claim 4, wherein the tubular fixing element (14) has a front dimension (E) that is greater than the front dimension (e) of the cross-member.

6. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the indentation (12) does not open at the side walls (6₃, 6'₃) of the cross-member (6), thereby to form two lateral end tabs (6₄, 6'₄) of the cross-member, bordering said recess (12).

7. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the tubular fixing element (14) has side walls (14₂₁, 14₂₂) that delimit an opening (14₃) allowing access to said internal volume (V) forming the recess for receiving the protrusion (4₁).

8. (original) The frame as claimed in claim 7, wherein the tubular fixing element (14) is closed by a base (14₁) provided on the side opposite said opening (14₃).

9. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 7 [[or 8]], wherein said side walls (14₂₁, 14₂₂) form a rectangle when viewed in transverse section.

10. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 2 ~~claims 2, 6 and 9~~, wherein the tubular fixing element (14) is

adhesively bonded to the lateral end tabs (6₄, 6'₄) in the region of the short sides (14₂₂) of its side walls.

11. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 2 ~~any one of claims 2 to 10~~, wherein the tubular fixing element (14) comprises at least one extension (15, 15') connected by adhesive bonding to facing walls of the cross-member.

12. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 10 ~~claims 10 and 11~~, wherein the or each extension (15, 15') extends from the intersection between a long side (14₂₁) and a short side (14₂₂) of the side walls of the tubular fixing element (14).

13. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 6 ~~any one of claims 6 to 12~~, wherein the retention means comprise a screw (18) which is mounted in one (6₄) of the lateral end tabs, the screw (18) being suitable for cooperating with a nut (20) accommodated in the intermediate fixing element (14), the screw bearing on the protrusion (4₁).

14. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 13 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein there are provided means for the mutual indexation of the protrusion (4₁) and of the cross-member (6), especially a resilient plate (16) which extends partly into the internal volume (V) and has a bent limb (16₂) suitable for cooperating with a notched portion (4₄) formed in said protrusion (4₁).

15. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 14 ~~claims 13 and 14~~, wherein the indexation means (16) have a section (16₃) for laterally holding the nut (20).

16. (currently amended) The frame as claimed in claim 15 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said protrusion (4₁) has, in the region of one (4₅) of its side walls, at least one flat surface (4₆) for bearing on an opposing face of the tubular fixing element (14), the or each bearing surface (4₆) extending only over a portion of the side wall (4₅).

17. (currently amended) A weaving machine (M) equipped with at least one heald frame (2) as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~.